

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated January 9, 2003. Claims 1-4 remain pending in this application. Claims 1 and 2 are the independent claims. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

In response to the Office Action's objections to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a), Applicants respectfully request acceptance of substitute Fig. 1 incorporating a power supply source PS attached to a power supply input terminal as proposed in the Office Action. Two (2) copies of substitute Fig. 1 are included herewith. Applicants respectfully believe the amendments to Fig. 1 adequately respond to the objection and render it moot. Applicants request withdrawal of the objection to the specification.

On the merits, the Office Action rejected Claims 1 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicants respectfully believe the amendments to Claim 1 adequately respond to the § 112 rejection of that claim, and further, that substitute Fig. 1 and page 3, paragraph 1 of Applicants' specification at least provides support for Claim 4. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the § 112, second paragraph rejection.

Further on the merits, the Office Action rejected Claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in a way to reasonably convey to one skilled in the art that the inventors, at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Applicants respectfully submit that substitute Fig. 1 and at least page 3, paragraph 1 of Applicants' specification provide adequate description to satisfy § 112, first paragraph. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the § 112, first paragraph rejection.

Further on the merits, the Office Action rejected Claims 2-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Lee (U.S. Patent No. 5,107,208; hereinafter "Lee"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Applicants' Claim 2 recites: "[A]n electronic circuit device comprising: a first and second contact terminal; a first and second switching transistor each with a main current channel, the main current channels being coupled in parallel between the first and second contact terminal, both for substantially providing a switchable short-circuit between the first and second contact terminal though the main current channels in a normal operating mode; a control circuit, the control circuit being arranged to switch the first and second switching transistors between at least three states, the first and second transistor being switched on and

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off respectively in the first state and vice versa in the second state, both transistors being switched on in the third state, wherein the switching transistor has only two contact terminals."

Lee fails to recite or suggest the switching transistor having only two contact terminals. Rather, Fig. 1 of Lee depicts terminals 21, 22, and 23 all connected to switch 17. Thus the invention of Lee is ill suited to a test device for testing only two contacts. Consequently, Claim 2 is believed patentable over Lee for at least these reasons.

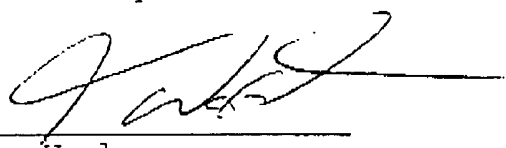
Claims 3-4 depend from independent Claim 2 discussed above and are believed patentable for at least the same reasons. In addition, Applicants respectfully believe Claims 3-4 to be independently patentable and request separate consideration of each claim.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned agent may be reached by telephone at the number given below.

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Respectfully submitted,

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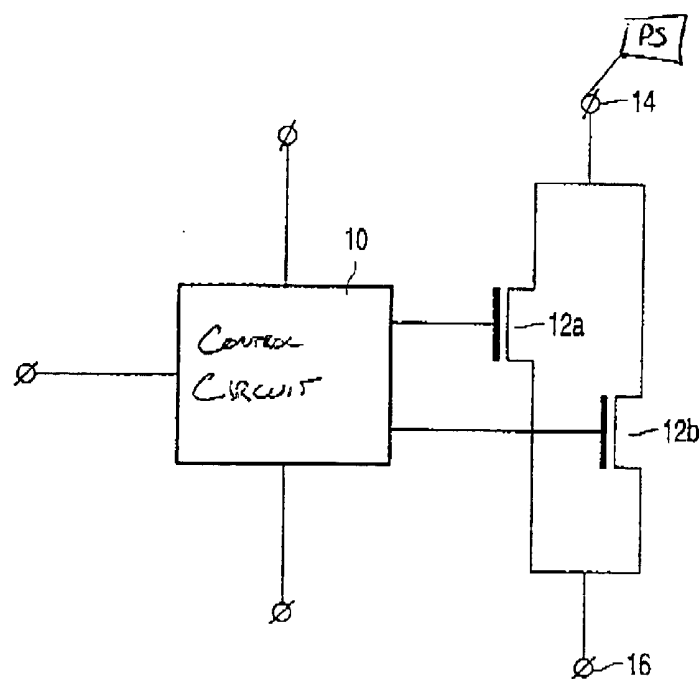


FIG. 1

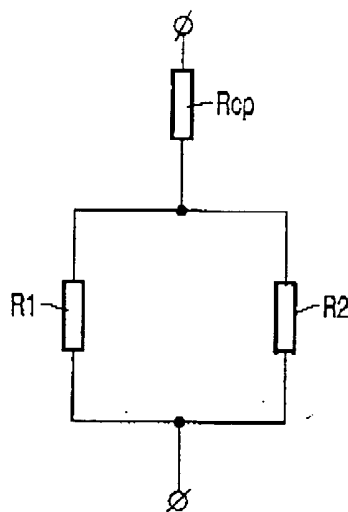


FIG. 2